## DAY CARE CENTER SAFETY CHECKLIST

**Use of form:** This is a voluntary form which may be used by day care centers as a review of key safety indicators.

**Instructions:** Indicate month that item was reviewed.

Name - Center	Current Year												
SAFETY INDICATORS	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	ОСТ	NOV	DEC	
INDOOR SAFETY													
Wall decorations attached without projecting devices; e.g., straight pins, nails.													
No more than two fingers distance between mattress and crib railings. A loose fitting mattress can cause strangulation or limb injuries.													
Crib and playpen slats are 2 3/8 inches or less apart.													
Walls and ceilings free of peeling paint and falling plaster.													
Knives and other sharp objects kept out of child's reach.													
Liquor kept out of child's reach.													
Hot liquids, foods and pans kept out of child's reach.													
Hot water temperature is no hotter than 120° F.													
Electrical outlets covered with plastic plugs when not in use.													
Electrical appliances unplugged when not in use and stored so they cannot fall in water causing electrical shock.													
Glass doors and low windows are marked for visibility with bright colored stickers, decals or tape.													
Cleaning products, medicines and food are stored separately out of children's reach.													
Bleach solutions and diapering supplies are out of children's reach.													
Basements are inaccessible to children.													
TOY SAFETY													
Toys are nonflammable.													
Toys do not have sharp edges or small parts that may come off or be swallowed causing choking.													
Toy chests have lightweight lids, no lid or a safe closing mechanism. A dropping lid can cause suffocation, head or neck injuries.													

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Toys with sharp points or edges, or those that will have such edges if broken by misuse, are not accessible to children under age 8.												
Children under age 5 are not given sophisticated electric toys. Other items, such as tape recorders and battery operated toys, are checked regularly for loose or exposed wires.												
Propelled objects, such as toy darts and projectiles, have soft, non-removable rubber or cork ends to prevent injury.												
Toys are checked often to make sure they are in good repair.												
Toys that are broken beyond repair are disposed of so that children cannot see or reach them.												
Toys that make very loud noises; e.g., caps or toy guns, are not available as they may permanently damage a child's hearing.												
Balloons are not permitted due to the possibility of small pieces or rubber being aspirated.												
Riding toys are stable and well-balanced.												
OUTDOOR SAFETY												
No peeling paint in or adjacent to outdoor play area.												
Pipes and other objects do not protrude from the ground.												
Window wells and stair wells are covered to prevent falls.												
Protruding branches and sticks at eye level are removed.												
Porches and balconies are sturdy, have railings and non-skid surfaces and are kept free of water, snow and ice.												
Garages are inaccessible to children.												
Pools or water on the property or in the neighborhood are protected from use by unsupervised children.												
Wading pools are empty if not in use.												
Playground equipment is installed according to manufacturer's instructions; e.g., placed on soft ground surface; are at least a foot from fences, walls and other play areas; legs are set in concrete below ground level; metal slides are located in shaded area; landing pits filled with sand, tanbark, shredded tires or similar materials.												
Playground equipment is maintained; e.g., loose parts tightened; tape applied over sharp edges and protruding screws; rusted parts replaced, including swing chains; and splinters in wood equipment removed.												

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Children are instructed in and follow safety play habits; e.g., no shoving, pushing or fighting; children take turns and wait until child ahead is out of the way; children stand away from moving swings; no twisting and winging of empty chains and swing seats allowed.												
Equipment which collects water, such as a tire, have drainage holes.												
Play area is always supervised by an adult.												
Wooden surfaces on benches, climbing equipment are free of slivers.												
Gates are kept closed and have child-proof latches or locks.												
Sandboxes are free of fecal matter.												
Steps and rungs for foot placement are evenly spaced.												
Swing seats are made of soft resilient materials.												
Swings are installed more than 6 feet from fences, building walls, walkways and other play areas.												
Area is free of dumpsters.												
There are no potential areas of entrapment; e.g., space between rungs, etc., should have openings less than 5" or more than 9".												
Area is free of electrical hazards such as wires, power lines, A / C units.												
Slide height; no more than 7 feet for children 3 - 7 years.												
Slide height; no more than 2 feet for children under 3 years.												
Cement footings on built-in equipment are recessed.												
Traffic flow patterns are planned to prevent collisions of playing children; e.g., paths of swing set, exits from slide.												
Play surfaces are free from litter, glass, sharp objects, animal feces, trash, stagnant pools of water, poisonous plants.												
Play surfaces under and around structures for climbing, sliding, swinging, etc., have impact absorbing surface such as shredded bark, hardwood, loose sand, pea gravel, etc.												
GENERAL SAFETY												
Smoke detectors or alarms are installed and tested weekly.												
Fire escape plan is posted and fire drills are held.												
Matches and lighters are inaccessible to children.												

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Children are taught to "stop, drop, and roll" to put out flames if his / her clothes catch on fire.												
Children ride buckled up in approved safety restraints or use automobile seat belts (for children over 40 lbs.) during all auto travel.												
Purses or cabinets with vitamins, medications, cigarettes, jewelry and calculators (with easy to swallow button batteries) are kept out children's reach.												
Emergency procedures and telephone numbers posted near each phone in clear view.												
Poison center telephone number sticker on phone; e.g., "The poison control center's telephone number is"												
Syrup of Ipecac is in the center in case of poisoning. Call the poison center or the child's physician before giving syrup.												
Working fire extinguisher of the appropriate classification is available and staff are trained to use it.												
Access to windows are blocked; screens are secure; and upper level windows are secured with window guards.												
Young children are not allowed to stand on chairs, tables, countertops, high chairs or any other elevated surfaces.												
Stairs are kept neat and clean; e.g., clear of items such as boxes, toys, supplies, newspapers, etc.												
Sharp corners on furniture and other objects are covered with a cushion to prevent any harm from banging or falling against them.												
Exits clearly marked and free of clutter.												
Cots and cribs are placed so that walkways are clear for emergency evacuation.												
Doors open in the direction of exit travel.												
Center is inspected for lead paint.												
Air is free of friable (crumbly) asbestos.												